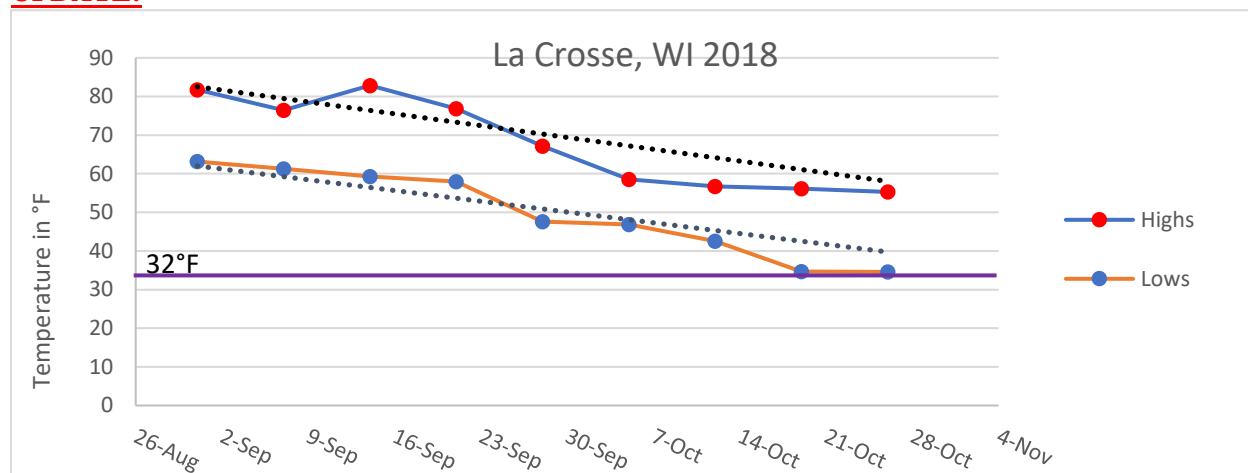


Notes From The Field *SW*

Migration Report 11/2/18

UPDATE:



Was this helpful? Let us know by taking this [3 question survey](#).

Mississippi River

We are beginning to lose bird numbers in our area. The divers are building on the river, which is predominantly canvasbacks. All puddle ducks are present, with highest numbers likely being mallards. Most recently we have been experiencing warm, mild, sunny and cloudy weather. In the next week we expect to experience rainy and mild weather. Hunter pressure in our area is similar to our last report. Water levels in our area are lower compared to our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 0%. High water levels seem to have spread out the ducks this year. Hunters are reporting it is harder to find ducks in recent days. Wood duck numbers and blue winged teal are lower as birds have moved out, with replacements being good numbers of gadwall, pintail and wigeon. I've been seeing higher numbers of black ducks in my travels. Lastly, water levels are still high but coming down. Next waterfowl survey will be in two weeks which will give us a better representation on the river.

View most recent flight survey [Oct 22nd flight counts](#) here.

Iowa/ Lower Wisconsin River

We are beginning to lose bird numbers in our area. Mallards and Wood ducks have been making up the majority of the bird numbers in our area as of late. Most recently we have been experiencing mild, windy, sunny and cloudy weather. In the next week we expect to experience rainy and cloudy weather. Hunter pressure in our area is similar to our last report. Water levels in our area are higher compared to our last report and ice coverage in the area is currently at 1%. High water levels seem to have spread out the ducks this year. Hunters are reporting it is harder to find ducks in recent days.

Statewide

Overall, we are beginning to build bird numbers in Wisconsin. Mallards, Ring-necked ducks, and teal Other divers (Scaup, Bufflehead, Goldeneyes, etc.) are showing to be the most abundant bird throughout

the state. Reports from across the state have shown that divers are still growing in numbers as they stage on Wisconsin waters.

Again, brood counts seemed average for mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks and other ducks. Canada goose numbers however seem to have been affected statewide due to the late snowfall we received in April that may affected our nesting geese. Late snowstorms in April set nesting back and caused a lot of first attempt failures across the state. Water levels across the state are variable with many places being higher than normal. Wisconsin has seen almost daily rainfall starting mid-August making water levels considerably higher than normal. Wetland food across the state seems to be similar to previous years and due to the amount of rain we have received lately crop harvest may start tracking behind what it should be compared to a normal year.

Thus far this season we have had variable reports from hunter on how the season is going so far for harvest. We cannot emphasize or encourage all of you enough to spend some time and scout before your hunting trips. Waterfowl hunters in Wisconsin have shown that hunters who scout 3 times before hunting shoot three times as many birds. It will be important also to check your spots out before hunting as some spots may not be huntable due to high water.

Be safe and happy hunting!

5 Important things to know:

1. North duck zone will open one week later than in previous years, resulting in a single statewide opener for the North, South and Mississippi zones on Sept. 29;
2. Elimination of the Horicon Canada goose Management Zone (resulting in a single statewide regular goose zone);
3. Increase in the daily Canada goose bag limit to three birds per day and there is a second split in the Southern Canada goose zone resulting in a goose season that is open during the Christmas and New Year's holidays; and
4. Canada goose hunters, registration of Canada geese and in-field validation of the Canada goose hunting permit is no longer required.
5. Check out [The Basics of Waterfowl Hunting in Wisconsin](#) document on the [Waterfowl Hunting](#) webpage along with other useful tools in our Hunter resources tab for a few tips and tricks!

If you have any questions, please contact Trenton Rohrer WDNR Assistant Migratory Game Bird Ecologist send him an email or call.

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